EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with attorney of record Edward Ramage reg. no. 50,810 on November 30, 2011.

1.   The following claims listed below supersede all previously filed claims

2.   Claim 17. A method for identifying devices and controlling access to a service, comprising the steps of:

collecting data related to software and hardware configurations from a device through a software agent installed on the device;

generating a digital signature for the device by hashing the software and hardware configuration data, wherein the resulting hashes are used to generate the digital signature are changed with every attempt to access a service;

sending the digital signature of the device to an authentication server, wherein the authentication server compares the digital signature sent with one or more previously-stored digital signatures; and

determines whether the device has been excluded from accessing or enrolling in the service through the authentication server by determining whether the device is on a

list or in a group of devices not allowed to access the service, or is included within a group of devices allowed to access the service.

3.   Claim 18. The method of claim 17, wherein the digital signature sent to the authentication server is encrypted.

4.   Claim 19. (Cancelled).

5.   Claim 20. The method of claim 17, wherein the hashes used to generate the digital signature are changed with every attempt to access a service, wherein the hashes cannot be reversed.

6.   Claim 21. The method of claim 17, wherein authenticating the digital signature is at least one of multiple is one of several stages of a framework of authorization and authentication processes governing access to the service by the device.

7.   Claim 22. (Cancelled).

8.   Claim 23. (Cancelled).

9.   Claim 24. The method of claim 17, wherein the authentication server allows a maximum number of enrollments for a particular device.

10.   Claim 25. (Cancelled).

11.   Claim 26. The method of claim 17, wherein the authentication server allows
minor modifications to the software or hardware configurations of a previously-enrolled
device so as to preserve access or denial of access for the device.

12.   Claim 27. The method of claim 26, wherein the previously- stored digital
signature of the device is updated to reflect the modifications.

13.   Claim 28. The method of claim 17, wherein the authentication server logs all
accesses or attempted accesses by a device to the service.

14.   Claim 29. The method of claim 17, wherein multiple devices can be registered for
a single user with the authentication server to create a registration hierarchy.

15.   Claim 30. The method of claim 29, wherein a user can unregister a device only
through the device itself, or another device within the registration hierarchy registered
earlier than the device to be unregistered.

16.   Claim 31. A method for identifying devices and controlling access to a service,
comprising the steps of:

collecting data related to software and hardware configurations from the device

through a software agent installed on the device;

generating a digital signature for the device by hashing the software and

hardware configuration data, wherein the resulting hashes used to generate the digital

signature are changed with every attempt to access the service;

sending the digital signature of the device to the authentication server;

verifying with the authentication server through a comparison of the digital

signature sent with one or more previously-stored digital signature to determine that the

device is not on a list or in a group of devices not allowed to access the service, or is

not a device with a maximum number of enrollments set to zero; and registering the

device as authorized to access the service.

17.   Claim 32. The method of claim 31, further comprising the step of verifying the

identity of the device each time it subsequently attempts to access the service.

18.   Claim 33. (Cancelled).

19.   Claim 34. (Cancelled)

20.   Claim 35. A system for identifying devices and controlling access to a service,

comprising:

a software agent installed on a device, adapted to collect data related to software and hardware configuration of the device;

a digital signature for the device, generated by the software agent by hashing the software and hardware configuration data which is changed with every attempt to access the service; and

an authentication server that determines whether the device can access the service based upon the digital signature of the device being compared with one or more previously-stored digital signatures;

wherein the authentication server verifies that the device is not a list or in a group of devices not allowed to access the service, or is included within a group of devices allowed to access the service, or is not a device with a maximum number of enrollments set to zero.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1.   The Examiner notes applicant's amended independent clams 17 and 35 limitations of: "generating a digital signature for the device by hashing the software and hardware configuration data, wherein the resulting hashes are used to generate the digital signature are changed with every attempt to access a service" and "wherein the authentication server compares the digital signature sent with one or more previously-stored digital signatures and determines whether the device has been excluded from accessing or enrolling in the service through the authentication server by determining whether the device is on a list or in a group of devices not allowed to access the

service, or is included within a group of devices allowed to access the service." are not

disclosed by the cited prior art of Moshir (US Patent Publication 2004/0003266), Aissi et

al. (US Patent Publication No. 2005/0149730) and Cravo De Almeida et al. (US Patent

Publication No. 2003/0055931). With regards to applicant's independent claim 31, the

Examiner notes applicant's has amended the claim to include the limitation of

"generating a digital signature for the device by hashing the software and hardware

configuration data, wherein the resulting hashes used to generate the digital signature

are changed with every attempt to access the service" and "verifying with the

authentication server through a comparison of the digital signature sent with one or

more previously-stored digital signature to determine that the device is not on a list or in

a group of devices not allowed to access the service, or is not a device with a maximum

number of enrollments set to zero". The Examiner notes that neither cited reference

includes the above limitations. Dependents claims 18, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28, 29, and 30

depend on independent claim 17 and are therefore allowed. Dependent claim 32

depends on independent claim 31 and is therefore allowed.

2.   The Examiner notes the teachings of prior art Salowey et al. (US Patent

Publication No. 2006/0200856. The Salowey reference was as a result of a updated

prior art and interference search. The Examiner notes that Salowey teaches obtaining a

device configuration for the purpose of validating the device to the network however

Salowey teachings do not disclose applicant's claim limits of: "generating a digital

signature for the device by hashing the software and hardware configuration data,

wherein the resulting hashes are used to generate the digital signature are changed with every attempt to access a service" and "wherein the authentication server compares the digital signature sent with one or more previously-stored digital signatures and determines whether the device has been excluded from accessing or enrolling in the service through the authentication server by determining whether the device is on a list or in a group of devices not allowed to access the service, or is included within a group of devices allowed to access the service".

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Accordingly, Claims 17, 18, 20, 21, 24, 26-32 and 35 are allowed.

Interview Summary

The Examiner contacted the applicant on November 30, 2011 with purposed amendments that would place the application in condition for allowance. The Examiner notes that the applicant agreed to the purposed amendments. The Examiner notes that purposed amendments are captured above as part of an Examiner's Amendment.

Response to Amendment

The Examiner notes applicant's remarks filed on 8/16/2011 have been considered.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BRYAN WRIGHT whose telephone number is (571)270-3826. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am - 5:30 pm Monday -Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Flynn Nathan can be reached on (571) 272-1915. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/BRYAN WRIGHT/

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